



**Montana Department of
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

Brian Schweitzer, Governor

P.O. Box 200901 • Helena, MT 59620-0901 • (406) 444-2544 • www.deq.mt.gov

June 9, 2008

RE: Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Application Decision on Helena Sand & Gravel Inc.'s Proposed Lake Helena Drive Gravel Mining Operation

To Interested Parties:

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has completed the Final EA on this proposal, which includes responses to the many comments received on the Draft EA.

The Final EA and this cover letter are available on the DEQ website at <http://www.deq.mt.gov/ea/opencut.asp>.

The Department has determined that Helena Sand & Gravel Inc.'s permit application complies with the provisions of the Opencut Mining Act. Therefore, in conjunction with completing this Final EA, the Department has issued a mining permit for this site with several conditions of approval. The permit is also available at the above website address.

Hard copies of all of these documents are available for review at the following public locations during their business hours: East Helena Schools Central Office, 226 East Clinton Street; the Lead Education & Abatement Program (LEAP), 2 South Morton; the East Valley Branch of the Lewis and Clark Library, 400 North Kalispell; the main branch of the Lewis and Clark Library at 120 South Last Chance Gulch; and the Industrial and Energy Minerals Bureau office of DEQ, second floor of the Metcalf Building, 1520 East Sixth Avenue.

Questions regarding any of the above matters may be directed to Chris Cronin, Opencut Mining Program Supervisor (444-2871; ccronin@mt.gov), Jane Amdahl, DEQ attorney (444-5690; jamdahl@mt.gov), or me.

Sincerely,

Neil Harrington, Chief
Industrial and Energy Minerals Bureau
Phone: (406) 444-4973
Fax: (406) 444-1923
E-mail: neharrington@mt.gov

NH/nh